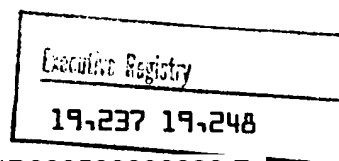


Third-Agency Documents



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Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, US, IR
SUBJECT: U.S. - IRAN RELATIONS

1. TEXT ALL CONFIDENTIAL

2. ON NOVEMBER 25, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INITIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE IRAN PROGRAM. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONTACT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, WHICH DRAW ON THE PRESIDENT'S AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STATEMENTS AND REAFFIRM OUR BASIC POLICIES. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY USE THE POINTS AT THEIR DISCRETION.

3. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

--ON NOVEMBER 25, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REVEALED THAT CERTAIN STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN, OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT WAS UNAWARE, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR BROADER EFFORT TO OPEN A STRATEGIC DIALOGUE WITH IRAN;

--THESE STEPS, WHICH WERE UNAUTHORIZED AND CONTRARY TO US POLICY, LED TO DIVERSION OF SOME OF THE FUNDS PAID BY IRAN FOR ARMS IT RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. TO HELP FUND CONTRA EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA;

--AS SOON AS THE PRESIDENT WAS INFORMED OF THIS DIVERSION, HE DIRECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD TO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE NSC STAFF AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

--THIS PROCESS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE ARMS TRANSFERS TO IRAN;

--THE PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF ADMIRAL JOHN POINDEXTER AS ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS AS WELL AS THAT OF LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, AN NSC STAFF MEMBER;

--WE KNOW THAT RECENT REVELATIONS IN THE MEDIA HAVE RAISED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES;

--WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT OUR POLICIES, AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THEM, ARE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD;

--I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REAFFIRM THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW THAT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD IRAN WILL BE GOVERNED BY SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

--WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE AN HONORABLE END TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, WITHOUT VICTOR OR VANQUISHED, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER STABILITY IN THE GULF REGION;

--WE REMAIN FIRMLY AND ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION AND WILL CONTINUE OUR STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO COMBAT THIS INTERNATIONAL SCOURGE, NO MATTER WHAT THE SOURCE;

--WE WILL MAKE ALL EFFORTS, CONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN HONOR AND OUR POLICY TOWARD TERRORISM, TO ACHIEVE THE SAFE RETURN OF ALL FOREIGN HOSTAGES;

--THE U.S. WILL NOT SUPPLY ANY FURTHER ARMS TO IRAN;

--WE REAFFIRM OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO OPERATION STANCAH AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STOP THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO IRAN FROM ANY SOURCE;

--WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEGITIMATE LEADERSHIP IN TEHRAN WITH THE EVENTUAL GOAL OF RESUMING A

STABLE RELATIONSHIP;

ADDITIONAL POINTS TO BE MADE

--WE ALSO PLAN TO SHARE PUBLICLY THE RESULTS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ARMS TO IRAN PROGRAM;

--AS SOON AS WE HAVE A FULL, DETAILED AND CONSISTENT RECORD OF WHAT TRANSPIRED, THAT RECORD WILL BE SHARED WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES ABROAD;

--ALTHOUGH A FULL ACCOUNTING OF WHAT HAPPENED IS CRITICAL, OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE NOW MUST BE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE SPECIFIC POLICY GOALS NOTED ABOVE;

--WE MUST LOOK FORWARD AND WORK CLOSELY WITH LIKE-MINDED STATES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS OUTLINED;

--AS WE CONTINUE THIS EFFORT, WE WILL KEEP YOUR GOVERNMENT INFORMED. SHULTZ

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